



Policy: 4475
Procedure: 4475.11
Chapter: Special Education
Rule: Graduation

Effective: 07/02/08
Replaces: N/A
Dated: N/A

Purpose:

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) shall provide FAPE to all eligible students until termination of eligibility, due to graduation from secondary school with a regular high school diploma, or until the end of the school year in which a student receiving special education reaches 22 years of age, in accordance with [34 CFR §300.102 and ARS §§15-701.01(A),(B), 15-764(A)(1), 15-913.01 and 15-1372]. A GED shall not be considered a regular high school diploma [34 CFR §300.102(3)(iv)].

Rules:

1. **Graduation [ARS §15-701(B), AAC R7-2-301(D)(1), and AAC R7-2-302(6)].**
The **EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION** shall:
 - a. Ensure graduation criteria for students with disabilities from the secure care education schools which shall include accomplishment of the academic standards in at least:
 - i. Writing;
 - ii. Mathematics;
 - iii. Science;
 - iv. Social Studies.
 - b. Ensure that a course of study and graduation promotion requirements for all students placed in special education programs in accordance with [§§R7-2-401 et seq.].
2. **Limitation-Exception to FAPE for Certain Ages [34 CFR §300.102].**
 - a. The **ADJC DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION OR DESIGNEE** shall **not** be obligated to provide FAPE to students with disabilities who have graduated from high school with a regular high school diploma;
 - b. The exception does **not** apply to students who have graduated from high school but have not been awarded a regular high school diploma;
 - c. Graduation from high school with a regular high school diploma constitutes a change of placement requiring prior written notice in accordance with [34 CFR §300.503].
3. **Additional Requirements for Evaluations and Reevaluations [34 CFR §300.503].**
The **ADJC DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION** shall ensure that:
 - a. An evaluation is **not** required before the termination of a student's eligibility due to graduation from secondary school with a regular diploma or due to exceeding 21 years of age;
 - b. A student who is no longer eligible due to graduation or exceeding the age of eligibility, the **IEP TEAM** shall provide the student with a summary of his/her academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting his/her post secondary goals.
4. **High School Graduation; Requirements [ARS §15-701.01(A)(3)].**
The **EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT AND THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION** shall ensure that:
 - a. Students with disabilities as defined in ARS §15-761 or students who receive special education as defined in ARS §15-763, shall **not** be required to achieve passing scores on competency tests (AIMS) in order to graduate from high school unless:

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- i. The student is learning at a level appropriate for the student's grade level in a specific academic area; and
 - ii. A passing score on a competency test is specifically required in a specific academic area identified by the student's IEP as mutually agreed upon by the students' parent/guardian (or 18 year old student) and the IEP Team.
- b. The **IEP TEAM** may exempt a special education student from passing the (AIMS) in all areas and the student would receive a regular high school diploma.

Signature Date

7-01-08

Approved by Process Owner

Gail Jacobs
Dr. Gail Jacobs, Director of Special Education

Effective Date

7/2/08

Approved by

Michael D. Branham
Michael D. Branham, Director